

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, USSR

SUBJECT: ESTONIAN SHALE EXPLOITATION

REFERENCE: LENINGRAD 498

1. SOVIET SHALE OIL EXPLOITATION OF INTEREST TO U.S.
EXPERTS. RECOMMEND THAT CONSULATE PURSUE REQUEST FOR PER-
MISSION TO VISIT SHALE AREA.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL:

A. EXTENT OF DEPOSITS, THICKNESS, AVERAGE GRADE,
CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.

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B. DEVELOPMENT WORK TO RECOVER OIL OR GAS CONTENT
INCLUDING

-- COMPARISON OF THE OIL AND GAS PRODUCED BY THE KIVITER
AND THE GALOTER RETORT SYSTEMS.

-- ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE KIVITER (1"-5"

PIECES) AND THE GALOTER (0-1" FINES) RETORTING PROCESSES.

-- STATUS OF THE 1,000 TON/DAY KIVITER RETORT AND THE 3,300 TON/DAY GALOTER RETORT THAT WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION (DIMENSIONS, THERMAL EFFICIENCY GROSS HEATING VALUES-- ETC.).

-- PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (AMOUNT OF SPENT SHALE AND SPENT SHALE DISCHARGE DEVICES FOR WET AND DRY SYSTEMS).

-- PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER USAGE IN SURFACE RETORTING (E.G., NUMBER OF BARRELS OF WATER NEEDED FOR EACH BARREL OF OIL PRODUCED).

-- PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE H₂S REMOVAL.

-- REFINERY BY-PRODUCTS (E.G., COKE, REFINED CRUDE, AMMONIA, SULFUR -- ETC.)

C. AT ONE TIME, TWO U.S. COMPANIES (WILLIAMS BROTHERS AND RESOURCE SCIENCE CORPORATION) WERE ATTEMPTING TO LICENSE THE SOVIET OIL SHALE TECHNOLOGY IN THE U.S. HAS SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT BEEN CONSUMMATED?

D. WILLIAM BROTHERS DOES FEEL THAT PERFORMANCE ON U.S. SHALES COULD BE EASILY VERIFIED AND CHEAPLY TESTED BY SHIPPING 10,000 TONS OF U.S. SHALE TO RUSSIA TO BE PUT THROUGH ONE OF THE RUSSIAN RETORTS. HAS SUCH TESTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR WILLIAMS TAKEN PLACE?

E. ARE SIMILAR DEPOSITS BEING WORKED ELSEWHERE IN THE SOVIET UNION?

F. WOULD THERE BE ANY INTEREST IN A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR STUDIES IN OIL SHALE TECHNOLOGY. VANCE

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